



*"The Conservancy will not only support environmental preservation but assist the regional economy, preserve working landscapes and provide increased opportunities for tourism. It will serve as an example of economy and environment in harmony.*

*The 25 million acres within the new conservancy are a gift to the people of California, a gift that we have now guaranteed will keep on giving. Our children and grandchildren, visitors from far and wide, will see and enjoy the same Sierra Nevada that we value so much today."*

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**

Tuolumne River in Summer  
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### **Mission Statement**

*The SNC initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Region, its communities and the citizens of California.*

### **Vision**

*The magnificent Sierra Nevada Region enjoys outstanding environmental, economic and social health with vibrant communities and landscapes sustained for future generations.*



**AB 2600 Signing:** Assemblymember John Laird; Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources; Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Terry Tamminen, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency; and Assemblymember Tim Leslie.

## Organization

The SNC is a state agency within the Resources Agency created by bipartisan legislation, co-authored by Assemblymembers John Laird and Tim Leslie, and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2004 ([statute](#)). It was created with the understanding that the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the Region would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction. The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners.

The statute creating the SNC provides for seven specific program objectives (using the precise language from the statute and not in priority order):

- *Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation;*
- *Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources;*
- *Aid in the preservation of working landscapes;*
- *Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires;*
- *Protect and improve water and air quality;*
- *Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy's program;*
- *Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.*

The SNC's service area covers approximately 25 million acres, nearly 25 percent of California's land area, making it the largest conservancy in the State ([view map](#)). The SNC jurisdiction includes the mountains and foothills of the Sierra Nevada range, the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, the Modoc Plateau and a part of the southern Cascade Range, including the Pit River watershed. The service area is divided into six Subregions and covers all or portions of 22 counties, from Modoc County in the north to Kern County in the south. It is one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions (with related socio-economic benefits) in the world.

The SNC is committed to a number of key objectives identified in the law creating it, including the following:

- *Support efforts that advance the environmental, economic and social well-being of Sierra residents in a complementary manner;*
- *Work in collaboration and cooperation with the local governments, community and regional organizations and other governmental agencies in carrying out the SNC's mission;*
- *Make every effort to ensure that, over time, SNC funding and other efforts are spread equitably across each of the various Subregions and among the program areas, with adequate allowance for the variability of costs associated with individual regions and types of projects.*
- *Inform and educate Californians throughout the state as to the substantial benefits they enjoy from the Region and the importance of the environmental and economic well-being of the Region.*



## ABOUT THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

### Governing Board

The SNC is governed by a 16-member Board, including 13 voting members and 3 non-voting liaisons as follows:

- *State Secretary for Resources (or his/her designee)*
- *State Director of Finance (or his/her designee)*
- *Three members of the public appointed by the Governor*
- *Two members of the public, one each appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee*
- *Six county supervisors whose districts are within the Region, each representing one of the six Sierra Nevada Subregions*
- *Three non-voting Federal liaisons, one each from the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

Video: ▶ [Byron Sher, SNC Governing Boardmember](#)



SNC Board, staff and grant recipients, June 2008 McArthur.